<u>WHAT</u> <u>IS</u> <u>CLAIMED</u> <u>IS:</u>

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:

a radio receiver having an input for receiving radio station identities for specifying radio stations for reception and an output indicating a presently received signal strength;

a memory having stored therein a plurality of radio station identities organized according to program content specifiers; and

a controller coupled to said output and operable to recall, and couple to said input, one of said plurality of radio station identities referenced to the same program content specifier as the presently specified radio station when the presently received signal strength meets a threshold.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of station identities and said program content specifiers are manually programmed into said memory through a user interface on the apparatus.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of station identities and said program content specifiers are programmed into said memory by the supplier of the apparatus.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of station identities and said program content specifiers are programmed into said memory through a subscription service.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of station identities and said program content specifiers are programmed into said memory with data received by said radio receiver.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said controller is operable to sequentially scan said memory to locate the one of said plurality of radio station identities that is recalled and coupled to said input each subsequent time said presently received signal strength meets said threshold.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said memory has stored therein a plurality of location coordinates associated with said plurality of radio station identifiers.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said controller is operable to scan said plurality of radio station identifiers in said memory ordered according to said program content specifiers and said location coordinates.

9. The apparatus of Claim 7 further comprising a global positioning system receiver coupled to said controller for providing present location coordinates of the apparatus.

10. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein said controller is operable to search said memory to locate the one of said plurality of radio station identities that is recalled and coupled to said input according to said program content specifier of the presently received signal and said stored location coordinates with respect to said present location coordinates.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said memory has stored therein an ordered list of program content specifiers, and wherein said controller is operable to

sequence through said ordered list to define a replacement present program content specifier when said controller in unable to locate and recall one of said plurality of radio station identities referenced to the same program content specifier as the presently specified radio station.

12.   The apparatus of Claim 11 and wherein said ordered list of program content specifiers are manually programmed into said memory through a user interface on the apparatus.

13.   A method of selecting radio stations in a radio receiver having a memory with a plurality of radio station identities organized according to program content specifiers stored therein, comprising the steps of:

monitoring the signal strength of a present radio station signal;

determining that the signal strength has met a threshold;

selecting a radio station identity from the memory that has the same program content specifier as said present radio station; and

tuning the radio receiver according to said selected radio station identity.

14.   The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of manually programming the plurality of radio station identities and program content specifiers into the memory.

15.   The method of Claim 13 wherein the plurality of station identities and program content specifiers are programmed into the memory by the supplier of the radio receiver.

16.   The method of Claim 13 wherein the plurality of station identities and program content specifiers are programmed into the memory through a subscription service.

17. The method of Claim 13 wherein the plurality of station identities and program content specifiers are programmed into the memory with data received by the radio receiver.

18. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of sequentially scanning the memory to locate a one of the plurality of radio station identities that is selected each subsequent time the determining step is accomplished.

19. The method of Claim 13 wherein the memory has stored therein a plurality of location coordinates associated with the plurality of radio station identifiers, and further comprising the step of scanning the plurality of radio station identifiers in the memory, ordered according to the program content specifiers and the location coordinates.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein the radio receiver has a global positioning systems receiver, and further comprising the step of obtaining present location coordinates from the global positioning receiver.

21. The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of searching the memory to locate the one of the plurality of radio station identities that is selected according to the program content specifier of the presently tuned signal and the stored location coordinates with respect to said present location coordinates.

22. The method of Claim 20 wherein the memory has stored therein an ordered list of program content specifiers, further comprising the steps of:
    sequencing through the ordered list and

defining a replacement present program content specifier if one of said plurality of radio station identities referenced to the same program content specifier as the presently specified radio station is not located.

23.   The method of Claim 22 further comprising the step of manually programming the ordered list of program content specifiers into the memory.